

**SEMINOLE COUNTY  
PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING April 22, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:**

Tom Boyko  
Barbara Whittier  
David Williamson  
Jeff Ebbers

**Staff:**

Jim Duby

**Guests:**

Rory Trumbore

**LOCATION:**

Chuluota Wilderness Area

**TIME:**

8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00a.m. at the Chuluota Wilderness Area entrance area. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Natural Land Project Updates** – Jim Duby gave a brief update on each of the three projects as follows.

Lake Harney – Staff would be meeting this afternoon with the engineer and contractor to discuss and hopefully reach agreement on an alternative footer design.

Black Bear – The contractors has completed the majority of the work on all 12 boardwalks, the canoe mooring dock and rain shelter. They still have some clean up and finishing work to complete on site prior to leaving this location. Staff is working on new signage and will be upgrading the parking area fencing prior to reopening this site. No official re-opening date has been set however, we are hoping for June.

Geneva Wilderness Area – The pavilion is about 99% complete with minor finishing touches to complete. Jim Duby explained to the group that this facility will be used for educational programming as well as be available for rental.

**Youth Conservation Center Update** – Jim explained there is no new news on this matter.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Site visit to Chuluota Wilderness Area** – Using the kiosk map Jim Duby gave a brief overview of the history and natural resources of the site. He explained it was historically used for cattle grazing and prior to that some timber harvesting. The main trail that runs diagonal from northwest to southeast is on surveys from the 1830s and provided a route from Fort Christmas to the next military fort north (?). Jim Duby described the habitats

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present being very dry and xeric on the west side and low and wet on the east side of the property. The group toured the site and observed several areas that had been burned in the last two years. They discussed challenges in burning certain habitats and how mechanical treatment has been used to accomplish our goals in a safe manner.

The group stopped at a small mammal trapping grid (sampling area) where Biologist Sherry Williams was working with interns from UCF on trapping Florida Mice, a listed species found on no other NLP site other than the Chuluota Wilderness Area. Jim explained the monitoring efforts for the mice and for Gopher Tortoises on site.

A future timber harvest of the east side of the property was also discussed. Jim Duby explained that historical (1940s) aerial photographs revealed that this area used to be much more open due to more frequent fires. Over time with lack of fires the pines and hardwoods have become much denser. A timber harvest would not only help reach the goal of restoring this to a more open wet flatwoods habitat but would also generate funds for ongoing land management.

Meeting adjourned at app. 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on **May 27, 2015 at the Lake Jesup Wilderness Area** at 8:00 a.m. address: 5951 S. Sanford Ave. Sanford FL 32771